



Testimony of Daisy Franklin before the
Connecticut Legislature's Housing Committee in **Opposition to House Bill 5225**
March 8, 2012

Good morning. My name is Daisy Franklin. I am a resident of Norwalk. I am Vice President of the Publicly-assisted Housing Resident Network, PHRN. I am speaking before you today on behalf of the members of our organization.

PHRN opposes House Bill 5225 in its present form because it amends Section 47a-22a of the Connecticut General Statutes to allow a housing authority to keep an elderly or disabled resident's security deposit beyond the one year limit currently in effect.

We understand and are sympathetic to the difficult situation in which housing authorities find themselves as they try to maintain their property and balance their books at a time when operating and administrative revenues are shrinking due to federal cutbacks and the loss of rental income. However, we do not believe that elderly and disabled residents – some of the poorest and most vulnerable of all public housing residents – should forego the return of their security deposits after a year for any reason. They are trying to make ends meet on social security, disability payments or small pensions. Many already take many meals each week in soup kitchens because they don't have enough money to buy food, especially near the end of the month. Quite a few take their daily medicine every other day, reducing costs in an effort to get by on what they receive each month. Why are we looking to balance our public budgets on the backs of the poorest among us?

I ask this Committee's members to reject House Bill 5225.